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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 79
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
INTRODUCED BY
Jim R. Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT
PROGRAMS, DEVELOP AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, "concurrent enrollment" means the enrollment of
secondary level students in academic and vocational courses at
post-secondary educational institutions for which the students
are eligible to receive credit at both the secondary and post-
secondary levels; and

WHEREAS, a written agreement between the cooperating
school district and the post-secondary educational institution
is required for concurrent enrollment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Laws 1990, Chapter 25, the tuition
and fees of a student shall be transferred from a school

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1 district to the post-secondary educational institution that the
2 student attends if the student is counted in the membership of
3 the school district and will receive high school credit for
4 course work taken at the post-secondary educational
5 institution; and

6 WHEREAS, for several years, the state board of education
7 and the commission on higher education have received feedback
8 regarding the state concurrent enrollment program; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2002, the commission on higher education and
10 the state department of public education developed electronic
11 surveys to gather information on the concurrent enrollment
12 program; and

13 WHEREAS, the survey data shows that there is confusion at
14 all levels about the program and its implementation; and

15 WHEREAS, many concurrent enrollment agreements, as
16 reported in the survey and as analyzed by commission and
17 department staffs, are out of compliance with state regulations
18 regarding requirements for funding and are inconsistent in
19 terms of eligibility requirements, payment methods, curriculum
20 levels and faculty arrangements; and

21 WHEREAS, in addition to compliance and consistency issues,
22 there are questions as to what kinds of courses can be taught
23 under the concurrent enrollment agreements and whether classes
24 at the post-secondary educational institutions are aligned with
25 the level of instruction in the school districts; and

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1 WHEREAS, requests have been made by post-secondary
2 educational institutions, school districts and parents of
3 students for the state to review, clarify and coordinate
4 concurrent enrollment programs;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on higher education and
7 the state department of public education be requested to study
8 concurrent enrollment programs in collaboration with school
9 districts and other appropriate organizations to improve the
10 state's concurrent enrollment program; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
12 education and the state department of public education
13 establish an advisory committee to gain input from students,
14 parents, public school administrators and post-secondary
15 educational institution administrators and to create a more
16 user-friendly approach to supporting students who could benefit
17 from an accelerated learning experience; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher
19 education and the state department of public education
20 establish a concurrent enrollment program policy that includes
21 a definition of acceptable course content areas and tuition
22 transfer requirements; methods for collecting and sharing
23 information between the commission and the department; program
24 accountability requirements, including enrollment verification
25 and accreditation visits; a plan to disseminate policy

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1 information to school districts, post-secondary educational
2 institutions and students; and a review of statutes to
3 determine any changes needed to implement the policy; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and conclusions
5 of the study and recommendations for legislation be presented
6 to the legislative education study committee; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the commission on higher education, the
9 legislative education study committee and the state department
10 of public education.

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